

(2) Organization

While it is presently (and for centuries) organized as five books, it is not clear when this development occurred. The Pentateuch is a running narrative and each book takes off from the previous book with a simple connective. The divisions may well be due to the sheer force of the material (quantity) as well as to the varied character of what is maintained in each book. The term Torah is applied especially to the Pentateuch and each individual book is thought to be one fifth of the law and is called a Chumash to indicate this. The whole of the Old Testament, incidentally is called Taanach, a cryptogram derived from an acrostic that looks like this:

Taa (Torah)  
Na (Nebhiim)  
Ch (Kethubim)

You will allow for the varied writings of the Hebrew consonants and my failure to transliterate them consistently.

Sometimes the book of Joshua is associated with the Pentateuch and the whole is called hexateuch. We do not follow this analysis in this class and will treat Joshua as one of the earlier prophets in a later section.

(3) Function

The Pentateuch lays a groundwork for the history of God's dealing with Israel and shows the basic expression of the requirement of righteousness as it applies to all men. The Pentateuch may not explain the full reasons for everything but it places the fundamental truths of God's role in history in conspicuous light.

b. The Names and Character of the Books

(1) Genesis

Called in the Hebrew and often translated "in the beginning", this first book of the Bible notes the beginning of all things with God and the arrangement of God and His universe respecting man. It briefly